



1140 Connecticut Ave NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036

TELEPHONE
202-296-2300

FACSIMILE
202-296-2318

WEBSITE
www.napalc.org

AFFILIATES

Los Angeles
Asian Pacific American
Legal Center

New York
Asian American Legal
Defense & Education Fund

San Francisco
Asian Law Caucus

FACT SHEET: 2000 Census Update of Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act

On July 25, 2002, the Census Bureau updated Section 203 Determinations based on 2000 Census Data, several months before their scheduled release. There are 14 new jurisdictions or languages (marked by an asterisk below), and the removal of Kauai County, Hawaii - Filipino/Ilocano since the 1990 Census.

Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act requires jurisdictions to provide language assistance if the number of voters qualifying for such assistance meets certain threshold tests.

Currently, Section 203 covers Asian Pacific American voters in the following counties:

Alaska

Kodiak Island Borough: Filipino*

California

Alameda: Chinese

Los Angeles: Chinese, Japanese, Korean*, Filipino, Vietnamese

Orange: Chinese*, Korean*, Vietnamese

San Diego: Filipino*

San Francisco: Chinese

San Mateo: Chinese*

Santa Clara: Chinese*, Filipino*, Vietnamese*

Hawaii

Honolulu: Chinese*, Filipino, Japanese

Maui: Filipino

Illinois

Cook: Chinese*

New York

Kings (Brooklyn): Chinese

New York (Manhattan): Chinese

Queens: Chinese, Korean*

Texas

Harris: Vietnamese*

Washington

King: Chinese*

These jurisdictions are required to provide both written and oral assistance. In 1997, NAPALC issued a report covering the status of compliance of these jurisdictions with the federal laws and regulations. The report also assesses the demonstrated usage and need of bilingual assistance in New York and California and makes several recommendations for improved compliance. The analysis is called *Report on Status of Bilingual Assistance to Asian Pacific American Voters under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act*.

Although the reauthorization of Section 203 had bipartisan support and was signed by President Bush in 1992, a more hostile Congress has been receptive to proposals to repeal these provisions. NAPALC testified before congressional committees in 1996 and the House of Representatives actually passed an English-only bill that year that would have ended bilingual assistance had the Senate acted. The House Subcommittee on the Constitution testimony is entitled *The Bilingual Voting Requirements Repeal Act of 1995*.

Check www.napalc.org for copies of the of NAPALC's Report or for more information on Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.